

a temperature control system for regulating the temperature of the reaction mixtures, and

a stirring system attached to the removable plate and removable with the removable plate for agitating the reaction
15 mixtures, the stirring system comprising

*Cl
Contd.*
spindles extending into respective wells, each of the spindles having a first end portion and a second end portion,

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a stirring blade attached to the first end portion of each of the spindles, and

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a drive mechanism located external to the vessels that is adapted to rotate the spindles.

178. (new) The apparatus of claim 177 wherein said exterior surface of the reactor block is an upper surface, and wherein said removable plate is an upper plate overlying said upper surface.